

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
FOR THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Petition by
Peoples Natural Gas Company
and Northern Minnesota Utilities,
Divisions of UtiliCorp United, Inc.,
for Authority to Increase Natural Gas
Rates in Minnesota and to Consolidate
the Two Utilities

**THIRD PREHEARING
ORDER**

By letter dated January 9, Mr. Bradley on behalf of UtiliCorp United Inc., has informed the Administrative Law Judge that UtiliCorp United and the Department of Commerce request an extension of various deadlines contained in the First Prehearing Order. Copies of this letter were faxed to all parties, and no objection has been raised, nor does it appear that there will be any objection to the extension.

On an unrelated note, no person has objected to the Petition to Intervene filed Otter Tail Energy Services Company, which was discussed in the Second Prehearing Order

Based upon all the filings and proceedings herein, the Administrative Law Judge makes the following:

ORDER

1. That the petition to intervene filed by Ottertail Energy Services Company is GRANTED.

2. The schedule set forth in the Prehearing Order of October 23, 2000, is hereby amended, as follows:

5. Rebuttal testimony filed – January 17, 2001.
6. Surrerebuttal testimony filed – February 1, 2001.
7. Evidentiary Hearings begin on February 6, 2001, at 9:00 a.m.

Remainder of the Second Prehearing Order and the Protective Order, shall remain in full force and effect.

Dated this 16th day of January, 2001.

ALLAN W. KLEIN
Administrative Law Judge